



THE VALLEY PATRIOT

"Congress shall make no law..."

2004

17TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

2021

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URGENT CARE
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Crime Plummets in the Valley



Methuen Village resident Herb Muller receives his first dose of the vaccine



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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

Jack Garvin; US Army, Massachusetts State Police

John Cuddy

VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

North Andover's Jack Garvin graduated from North Andover High, where he played football and captained the track team. He also served on the student council. Later, he attended Northern Essex Community College. After graduating from Northern Essex, he was drafted into the US Army, during the Vietnam War.

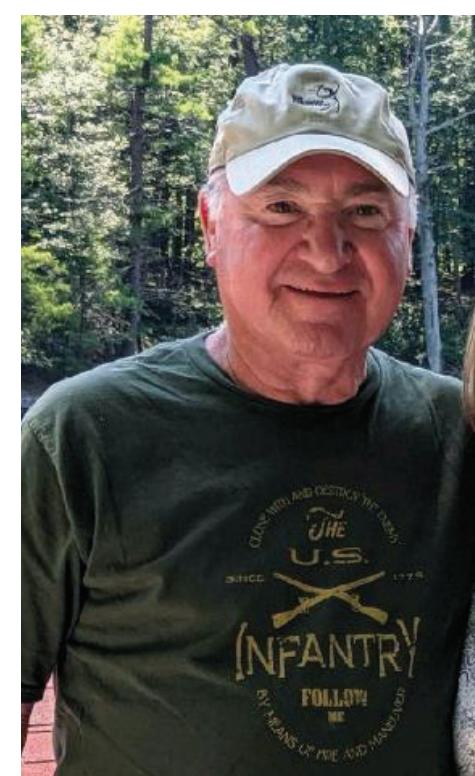
He completed both Basic and

Advanced training with the US Army at Fort Gordon, Georgia. The Fort Gordon Army schools taught him the skills needed to serve as an infantry specialist with an expertise in employing recoilless rifles. This training included both the individual 90 mm recoilless rifle and the jeep or armored personnel carrier mounted 106 mm recoilless rifle. He was then sent to Vietnam after completing his training. Upon his arrival in Vietnam, he was assigned to Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion of the 7th Infantry of the

199th Light Infantry Brigade. The unit he was assigned to did not have any recoilless rifles in its arsenal, so he was redesignated as an infantryman, rifleman. His MOS was changed from 11H to 11B. The 199th Infantry Brigade was based out of Long Binh, north of Saigon. His first area of operations was in the southern part of the country, the Mekong Delta, before moving to areas north and northwest of Long Binh.

After approximately five months, he was transferred to Echo Company of the 3/7th of the 199th, when the unit had received a jeep mounted 106 mm recoilless rifle. This was a four-man vehicle, Jack was designated as the gunner. He remained there for a few months, until he was transferred to a different job in Echo Company changing his MOS to 11F. He joined the reconnaissance platoon for the last few months of his tour of duty. His awards while in Vietnam include the Purple Heart, two Bronze Stars for Valor, two Air Medals, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry issued by the Vietnam government as well as other awards.

Upon arriving back in the states with the rank of Sergeant, he was stationed at Fort Dix as a drill instructor for the remainder of his service. Upon leaving the army, Garvin attended Merrimack College and Salem State College on the G.I. Bill, studying, while working. He took the State Police exam and entered



the 58th recruit training troop in 1974. After graduation he was assigned to the State Police barracks in Concord. During the week of his graduation school busing was initiated in the Boston Public schools. The senior trooper who was assigned to break him in, was assigned to the Tactical team, and so Jack was also assigned to the tactical team during and after his "break-in" period. Jack said of the experience; "That was quite a learning experience for me. Off and on

HERO: PAGE 18

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17 Years and Counting - Let's Build Back Better

Seventeen years ago this month, the very first Valley Patriot rolled off the printing press at Graphic Development in Hanover, Massachusetts.

We remember the predictions of local politicians who said we would be out of business in 3 months, laughing at the idea that anyone would take this monthly publication seriously.

We also remember the many challenges we've had to overcome, challenges that we never could have imagined we would face.

Since 2004 we have survived the breakup of our original board, the retirement of Chuck Ormsby and Ralph Wilbur, (two of our three founders), the decline of the newspaper industry due to the advent of Facebook, Twitter,

and various on-line news sites, multiple bogus lawsuits (and we haven't lost yet), the Columbia Gas explosions, an onslaught of bad press by our competitors at the daily newspaper, other newspapers stealing our advertisers, months of shutdowns from Covid, (and the loss of advertising revenue from so many business closings), and of course, the continuing attacks we get by corrupt political hacks trying to destroy our credibility or shut us down any time they are criticized in the pages of this newspaper.

We have also achieved some amazing accomplishments since 2004.

Our publisher Tom Duggan wrote a new public records law in Massachusetts that makes it harder for public officials

to conceal public information, and has strict penalties for those who refuse to comply with public records requests.

The Valley Patriot team also created a charity BASH that we hold every year in March (it will be in MAY this year because of COVID) whereby we have raised and donated more than \$80,000 for college scholarships, and honored more than two dozen police officers, firefighters and veterans, as well as raising tens of thousands of dollars for local non profits and those who work with the homeless.

The Valley Patriot also published "Heroes in Our Mids" in 2017. The book is a compilation of stories that have appeared on the front page of The Valley Patriot honoring local veterans who not

only served their country but continued to serve their community when they returned home.

Yes, we have faced a lot of challenges and accomplished quite a bit in 17 years, but we couldn't have done any of it without the help and support of the local business community advertising their products and services.

We also could not have kept going through the tough times without the dozens of staff and volunteers who randomly pitch in to help us when times are bad.

Thank you to everyone who helps us publish this newspaper every month! We hope to be around another 17 years!

COVID-19 Vaccination Updates

Rep. Linda Dean Campbell STATE REPRESENTATIVE

The Merrimack Valley legislative delegation is continuing to press the Baker Administration for a more streamlined COVID-19 vaccine rollout and more resources for the Merrimack Valley, which has been disproportionately affected by this pandemic – Methuen, Haverhill, and Lawrence are among the 20 hardest hit communities in Massachusetts.

The State Legislature has begun to hold oversight hearings on the vaccine rollout to pinpoint the most urgently needed improvements. I look forward to being involved in this process as Chair of the Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity alongside Senator Barry Finegold. Among other things, our committee will examine issues related to the vaccine sign-up website, such as website capacity limits, unutilized website features, overbooked appointments, and gaps in website training for vaccine clinics.

The Massachusetts House of Representatives is also working to outline spending priorities for the \$200 million in federal FEMA funding our state will

receive for the vaccine rollout. We must ensure this funding improves the sign-up website and develops more regional vaccination facilities.

For details about vaccine eligibility, vaccination locations near you, and how to prepare for an appointment, visit www.mass.gov/covidvaccine.

If you are eligible, you can sign up for an appointment online at vaxfinder.mass.gov. Enter your city/town to see a list of vaccine locations near you. Select a location and click its website – then follow the instructions to schedule an appointment online. If no appointments are available at that location, try another one or check back later.

To sign up by phone, call the Massachusetts Vaccine Scheduling Resource Line by dialing 2-1-1. The hotline now has extended hours – it is open Monday to Thursday from 8:30 AM–8 PM and Friday to Sunday from 8:30 AM–5 PM.

Veterans enrolled with VA health care may be eligible to receive the vaccine from the VA under separate eligibility criteria. For instance, the Bedford VA is currently offering the vaccine to all enrolled Veterans of any age – call 781-687-4000 to make an appointment.

There are a number of vaccination

locations in the Merrimack Valley listed at vaxfinder.mass.gov if you search for your city/town, as described above. Two of the larger vaccination sites are run by Lawrence General Hospital and the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center. Lawrence General operates a clinic out of South Lawrence East Elementary School (165 Crawford St, Lawrence) for Essex County residents. To check availability, visit: <https://lawrencegeneralcovidvaccine.as.me/schedule.php>

The Greater Lawrence Family Health Center offers vaccines at its Lawrence location (700 Essex St, Lawrence) for GLFHC patients and at its Methuen location (147 Pelham St, Methuen) for non-GLFHC patients. To check availability, visit: <https://glfhc.org/covid-19-vaccine-signup-form/#signup>

Finally, depending on supply, cities and towns may be able to offer periodic vaccine clinics for their residents. The City of Methuen has opened a COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic at the former Avenue store at The Loop (90 Pleasant Valley Street, Methuen). Information will be made available on www.cityofmethuen.net. The City of Haverhill may hold future vaccine clinics at the Citizens Center (10 Welcome Street, Haverhill). Information



will be available by clicking "COVID-19 Vaccine Info" at www.cityofhaverhill.com or calling the city's hotline at 978-374-2390.

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature and serves as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. She can be reached at Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2380. ♦



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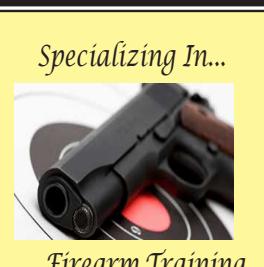
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The Valley Patriot is not responsible for, nor do we necessarily share the opinions of columnists and contributors that are published in the paper. Columns, by definition, are opinion pieces.

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Local daily news updates online at valleypatriot.com or facebook.com/valleypatriot

We Need Vaccine Pre-registration in Massachusetts

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,
Massachusetts residents need to know where, when and how they can receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Inexplicably, this is still not the case.

The state's website continues to be a source of frustration, as many spend hours trying to obtain an appointment, only to hit a dead end. When we recently advanced to the next eligibility phase, the state's vaccine website crashed within a minute. It was an embarrassing event emblematic of the widespread negligence residents have witnessed from the state since its rollout of the vaccine.

While we cannot dictate how many doses are produced or how many we will receive, we can predict that demand will continue to outweigh supply for the foreseeable future and provide our residents with some measure of certainty by allowing preregistration for vaccination.

That is why I filed legislation, Senate Docket 709, An Act relative to COVID-19 vaccination pre-registration, to establish a centralized system to give

IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR DIZOGLIO

Massachusetts residents the option of pre-registration.

It's a simple idea but one that finally gets ahead of the pandemic instead of chasing after it. It's a tool that many states, including Florida, New Jersey and West Virginia, are successfully using for residents to sign up - accessible services that allow residents enter their information into a system, either online or via phone, to pre-register, receive updates on vaccine availability and schedule an appointment to get vaccinated as soon as supplies allow.

Several municipalities in



Massachusetts, including the Towns of Cohasset and Hingham, have proceeded with similar systems at the local level. It is our responsibility at the state level, however, to provide a centralized, efficient and effective mechanism for distribution.

The vaccine rollout has, to put it kindly, been less than ideal but we can ensure that the frustration experienced by the first groups of eligible recipients is not replicated

during subsequent phases of the vaccine distribution plan. We can do that by giving all Massachusetts residents the

opportunity to establish eligibility and pre-register for the vaccine instead of spending time and energy trying to schedule appointments whose availability is determined by the vaccine supply chain.

A centralized state-level pre-registration system would provide residents a way to effectively hold their space in line and alert them to available appointments as their vaccination eligibility phase opens.

Our residents already spend hours following up on their unemployment claims and waiting in line to get tested. We can and should give back to them the time and energy that would otherwise be spent pursuing a vaccination appointment by implementing pre-registration.

If you have questions about this or any other issue, please contact me and my team anytime via email at diana.dizoglio@masenate.gov or phone 978-984-7747.

Yours in service,
Diana ♦

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'Lori from Lowell' Just Another Partisan Politician

Brian Genest
DRACUT COLUMNIST

Remember when Lori Trahan was running for Congress in 2018? She'd probably like you to forget. Back then, the story was she wasn't like other Democrats. She was going to be different.

How's that narrative about "Lori from Lowell" holding up back here at home today? Here's how: LOL!

Right from the start, Lori Trahan exposed herself as a partisan radical and a Washington swamp creature. From the day she arrived in Congress, Lori Trahan has been part of Nancy Pelosi's team to destroy America. IRL, Lori lives in Westford now.

ICYMI: At the State of the Union address in 2019, just shortly after being sworn into office, Trahan was one of Nancy Pelosi's women in white, that not-so-charming group who refused to clap for America, free enterprise, law enforcement heroes and low unemployment for women and minorities. Later that week, Trahan showed up in Lawrence to endorse total fraud Elizabeth Warren for president. Trahan's speech was loaded with all kinds of talking points to help promote the progressive Democrat agenda. At the event, Trahan praised the Green New Deal put together by self-proclaimed socialist Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ed Markey, a plan so extreme that it would get rid of fossil fuels, the combustion engine and almost all air travel. NBD, right?

It's not like Lori Trahan had any kind of mandate from the extreme left or anywhere else. She won the Democrat primary in 2018 by only 145 votes after a recount. Just an FYI.

Regardless, as co-sponsor of a so-called "justice in policing act" last summer, Lori Trahan showed her true colors as a progressive, anti-police politician. The bill, of course, provided "justice" for protesters, rioters, looters and everyone but the police. In other words, she's for chaos instead of the cops. JK—not!

In a press release, Trahan called the anti-police bill transformative legislation



that will overhaul policing in America and begin to rebuild the trust between officers and the communities they serve. IMO, it's more like "an act relative to reprimanding the police."

BTW, what about the trust between our elected officials and the communities they're supposed to serve? What about supporting the vast majority of good, honest and dedicated officers who risk their lives every day to protect us all, including the elite, thankless and clueless?

On issues ranging from her questionable campaign finances to publishing information to help illegal aliens evade capture, Lori Trahan has shown she's just another entitled insider who's out of touch and out of sync with the good people of Dracut and the other communities in her district.

Speaking of which, Lori Trahan's now along for the ride on Joe Biden's All-Malarkey tour, saying recently that bipartisanship should take a back seat on the \$1.9 trillion pandemic spending bill. Indeed, that's exactly how Lori Trahan and her Democrat cohorts handled the situation: She supported the completely-partisan, Democrat bill, along with the necessary procedural games to avoid a Republican filibuster, too.

Meanwhile, Democrats are calling for unity. Lori Trahan, who twice voted to impeach President Donald Trump, sure has a strange way of supporting that alleged cause.

Question: What kind of example does Lori Trahan set when she tells her children, your children and all her constituents that bipartisanship should be put aside—for any reason? Answer: A very poor one, SMH.

FWIW: The people of the 3rd Congressional District deserve better than Lori Trahan.

— Brian Genest is chairman of the Dracut Republican Town Committee and a member of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee representing the Second Essex & Middlesex District of Andover, Dracut, Lawrence and Tewksbury.

Valley Patriot: Thank You for 17 GREAT YEARS!

Linda Dean Campbell



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Chair of the Committee on Veterans/Federal Affairs

WEATHER 101 with AL KAPRIELIAN

Understanding the Polar Vortex

Welcome to March which will officially start the season of spring. Daylight savings time occurs at 2am Sunday March 14th. At this time, standard time ends, and daylight savings time occurs by turning the clocks one hour ahead (spring ahead). During March the days continue to get longer and the nights shorter. The sun angle continues to get higher in the sky as we go through March.

Therefore, any snow that falls in March will start to melt faster with the increasing sun angle. Recapping February it was quite a month weather-wise!! We had historic cold air along with many winter storms which caused power outages in Texas and the southern states.

At one point 4.5 million people in Texas had no power. With the power outages come days with no heat resulting in water pipes freezing and bursting causing extensive water damage to homes.

The arctic air was so intense as it came straight down from Canada that the winter storms caused snow to fall all the way south to the Mexican border. Very unusual to see arctic air and snow move this far south.

The snowstorms that occurred with the winter storms in Texas and the southern states brought many inches of dry and fluffy snow. Due to how deep the arctic air was, the snow was the fluffy and easy to shovel (move).

With the strong winds this also caused the fluffy snow to blow around. This situation in Texas showed us how important it is to have a generator. A generator can save you from frozen and bursting water pipes. Also, people without power and no generator had to keep warm. Those with fireplaces used this as a means to stay warm. Some people ran out of firewood and used the wood from fencing to burn in the fireplace.

A very sad situation to see. By Friday February 19th, and that weekend, the arctic air retreated back to the north. As a result, temperatures warmed back into the 70s that weekend. The following week saw temperatures get to 80 degrees. What a turnaround in just a matter of

days. The last severe cold arctic outbreak in Texas was back in 2011 and 1989. That extreme arctic air last month which caused the historic cold over Texas and the southern states stayed to our west and southwest. We had cold weather in New England but not to the extreme intensity as in Texas, mid part of US and the southern states.

Back here in New England we started February with a nor'easter on the 1st.

Many areas saw 12" +. There were other days with snowfall, February 18th with snowfall amounts not as high as the 1st. However, it was enough snow to shovel and plow on the 18th. January is known to be the coldest month of the year, however, this year it did not live up to its reputation. During January the jet stream tracked mainly to the north of our region. This put us on the milder side along with the jet stream bringing air from the Pacific which is not as cold as air coming down from Canada. As a result, temperatures averaged above normal for January along with below normal snowfall. The weather pattern changed as we moved into February.

The jet stream started to amplify more and track to the south of our area. This brought colder arctic air along with the increase in storms producing snow and even sleet and freezing rain. During the last week in February, the jet stream started to track north again and we saw milder daytime temperatures into the 40s. The last day of February was mild and dry most of the day. There were lots of clouds though still high temperatures reached the low to middle 40s for the last day of February. What can we expect in March? We can expect some warm and cold days and a lot more rollercoaster temperatures as we see a transition leaving winter and going into spring. We can still get snowstorms in March with more of a battle with colder air north and the air getting warmer more across the southern US. Also, we can still get a shot of arctic air from Canada in March.

It won't last as long as December, January, and February. Will we see any arctic air and snowstorms this March?

Stay tuned to next month's article for the answers! In the meantime, stay safe and look forward to spring!! ♦



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Monthly Report on Mayor Perry

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FREE for MEMBERS and \$5 for all FUTURE MEMBERS to register.

Register at merrimackvalleychamber.com or call 978-686-0900. Sponsorships are available – call Michael Bevilacqua at 978-686-0900 or email: Michael.bevilacqua@merrimackvalleychamber.com. Webinar link will be provided through email within 24 hours of registration. Connect with them on social media! Facebook, Instagram, YouTube & LinkedIn - @MerrimackValleyChamber or Twitter - @MVChamber. Visit our website to learn more: www.merrimackvalleychamber.com

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MVCC “Grocery Shopping 101” with Jessica Schores of Nutrition in Motion Monday, March 15, 2021 1PM – 2PM Join registered dietitian Jessica Schores on Monday March 15th at 1pm!

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A Virtual Conversation with Methuen Mayor Neil Perry

Friday, March 19, 2021 Noon – 1PM

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The program format will be a speed networking event with break out rooms to help you open the door to new business

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK



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MVCC HR Series “A Sticky Situation: Should Employers Require COVID Vaccines” Thursday, March 25, 2021 10AM – 11AM. Featured Speaker: Andrew P. Botti, Director and Member of the Employment Law Practice Group McLane Middleton, P.A.

Andrew will be Discussing “A Sticky Situation: Should Employers Require COVID Vaccines”:

- The EEOC has recently issued guidance permitting employers to require employees to receive COVID vaccines
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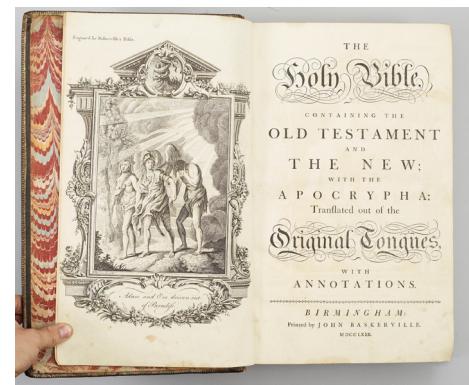
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Historic Bibles on Display at Museum of Printing

Haverhill, Mass. — The Museum of Printing has an extensive collection of rare Bibles and many will be on display during March and April. The Museum has one leaf from every Bible printed in Colonial America, including the first Bible printed in America. It was the Eliot Bible of 1663 in the Algonquin Indian language.

Because the King James Bible had typographical errors. King James ordered a new printing. The 1762 Baskerville Bible was the result. It is considered one of the most beautiful Bibles and the typeface designed for it is named for its designer, John Baskerville, and still used to this day. There are giant Folio-sized Bibles and pocket-sized Bibles. The so-called Pony Express Bible



was small enough to travel with the mail riders racing across the Western Plains.

A replica of the Gutenberg Bible allows visitors to see the work that started the process of printing. Leaves from Luther's German translation are on display and they changed the world of religion forever.

"The Book of 1,000 Tongues" has a Bible passage set in every language known in 1939. Many of those languages have disappeared. See it all and take one of the handouts (while available) that tells the story of the printed Bible throughout history. The Museum of Printing is at 15 Thornton Ave. in Haverhill, Massachusetts right off exit 49 from 495. Covid precautions are in place.

NOTEBOOK: PAGE 14



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Rep. Tram Nguyen Files 27 Bills

Rep says her intention is to support working families, protect survivors of domestic violence, combat hate crimes, and more

Representative Tram T. Nguyen (D-Andover) met the February 19th filing deadline with 27 bills filed. Her proposed legislation ranges from support for working families to enhanced protections for victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other crimes; consumer protection; criminal justice; climate change; animal welfare; addressing discrimination; combatting hate crimes; and increasing racial & cultural inclusivity in schools.

Rep. Nguyen filed nine bills in support of working families, especially those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These bills would strengthen workers' rights to medical leave due to COVID-19; provide emergency tax relief to unemployed workers; and improve unemployment benefits for low-wage workers. Another bill would strengthen anti-retaliation laws by clarifying a protected range of activities where workers can assert their rights (or those of their co-workers) under the workers' compensation law, and identifying prohibited types of employer misconduct, retaliation, and other efforts to deprive workers of their workers' compensation rights.

Several bills seek better consumer protections. The Debt Collection Fairness Act would help working families by protecting more wages from garnishment, reducing interest rates on debts, and ensuring that no one is imprisoned for consumer debt. Another consumer protection bill would help seniors and families who are behind in their property tax payment to better understand their rights and offer them concrete steps to redeem their property.

Six of Rep. Nguyen's bills focus on victims and survivors of crimes, including domestic violence, trafficking, and hate crimes. One bill would add coercive control and technological abuse to the list



of domestic abuses covered by protection orders. Another would increase victim and witness participation in the criminal legal system and promote public safety and assistance to law enforcement by creating a consistent victim certification process for vulnerable immigrant victims of crime and trafficking. Several bills would strengthen protections against harassment and help abuse survivors remain safe and rebuild their lives.

Additionally, Rep. Nguyen has been working with Attorney General Healey on the Hate Crimes Reform bill, which would address bias-related incidents and hate crimes that are currently on the rise in Massachusetts, and strengthens the ability of law enforcement and prosecutors to hold perpetrators accountable and better protect individuals who have been targeted based on their membership in a protected class.

Rep. Nguyen also filed bills to prevent the elimination of transit services and closure of commuter rail stations to ensure the continued progress of capital projects; reduce recycling costs by bidding out contracts; promote a racially and culturally inclusive K-12 school curriculum; and protect animals from convicted abusers.

"As I begin my second term, I carry with me all the important lessons learned during my first legislative cycle and am eager to get back to work," Rep. Nguyen said. "The legislation that I have filed covers a number of topics deeply important to me and to my constituents. Thank you to my dedicated staff, supportive colleagues, and all of the advocates who helped shape our legislation. I look forward to working with various organizations, advocates, and individuals as these bills move through the legislative process."

You can view the bills here: malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/TTN1 ♦



Joe Finn, candidate for North Andover Selectman appeared on the Paying Attention! Podcast to talk about his proposal to halt new development.

North Andover Voters to Consider Moratorium on New Developments

North Andover Voters
North Andover - Joseph Finn, candidate for the North Andover Select Board, today announced his intention to file a warrant article for North Andover's annual town meeting that would put a temporary pause on the construction of new multi-family housing units in town.

The town meeting warrant article would also direct the town government to conduct a study looking at the effects further development will have on North Andover's schools, traffic, drinking water supply, sewage treatment and overflows, and any other municipal services that could affect the quality of life of residents.

"I am concerned about the rapid growth of our town. It's time for the town to take a step back and catch its breath". Finn noted that according to the 2017/2018 Master Plan Report, North Andover residents expressed concern over limited school capacity, increased traffic congestion with more housing density, potential loss of natural resources and open spaces, and increased traffic flowing along neighborhood streets due to the town's rapid growth. Finn stated that despite these valid concerns expressed by our residents, the town has experienced an acceleration in the development of large-scale multi-family complexes in North Andover. Worse yet, the rapid growth comes after being notified that North Andover, based on 2015 housing

data, already had a "healthy inventory of multi-family units" for a town its size.

"In the last several years alone, North Andover has permitted the construction of over 700 new units in large-scale complexes such as Berry Pond on Route 114 (196 units), Avalon Bay on High St (170), Knights of Columbus on Sutton St (136), East Mill on High Street (51 additional) and Princeton Properties on 125 (192). Now, there is a proposal for Royal Crest to replace the existing 588 units with 1,641, in addition to dorm facilities, expansive tracts of retail and office space, and even a hotel," noted Finn.

"Traffic throughout North Andover is terrible. In certain parts of town, coincidentally where many of these new developments are being planned, during commuting hours cars line up in an unhealthy idling jam. It's bad for our environment and it's bad for our quality of life here in town," noted Finn.

The two-year housing moratorium is allowable through Massachusetts G.L. c. 40, Sections 2 and 3, and has been enacted in the towns of Saugus (2019), Marlborough (2017), and Natick (2015) in recent years.

"It is time for the citizens of North Andover to take action through Town Meeting. I would encourage anyone who wishes to join me in co-sponsoring this article to contact me at jfinn.na2021@gmail.com," closed Finn.

A copy of the text of the proposed warrant article is available on-line. ♦

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Kane's Corner: Bullied Breed Rescue

Kane put on his thinking cap so he could pay special attention to what president Kelly Burns and Tommy the Pitt Bull Terrier had to say about their nonprofit organization Bullied Breed Rescue. Kane also a rescue felt he would learn how Bullied Breed gives dogs like Tommy a chance to find a loving home. Kane made note of how shiny Tommy's chocolate coat was, and he was sporting one of those stylish pittie head parts. Quite a handsome guy and definitely got dressed up for his interview.

Kane learned that Bullied Breed rescue is a non-profit organization created to rescue dogs that are often overlooked and discriminated against solely on their breed. This rescue prioritizes dogs that are homeless, abused, neglected and often misjudged. Although there are many breeds assisted by Bullied Breed Rescue the most common breeds are American Pit Bull Terriers, Rottweilers, Doberman, and German Shepherd dogs. Kane thought wow German Shepherds like me, I wonder if I could be misunderstood. So, what is the goal? It is to give these dogs a second chance.

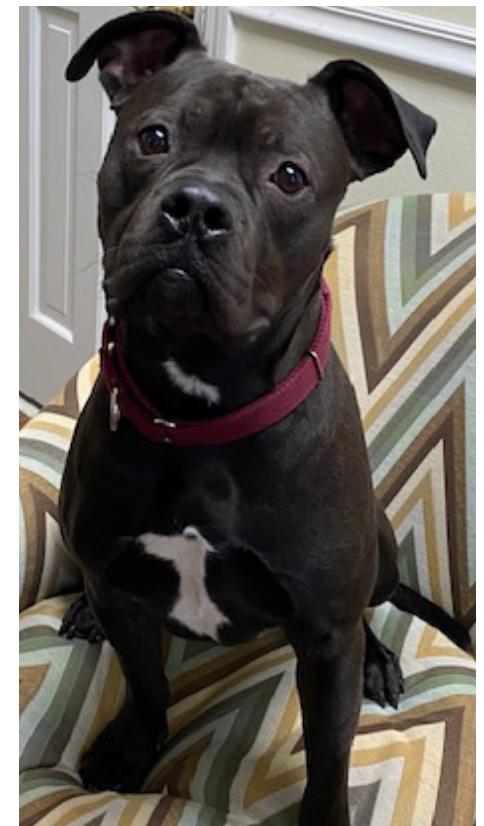
Kelly explained that they place the dogs in their caring loving foster or forever homes. That way they have the benefit of learning the routine of family life with love and adequate attention. Kane was sad to learn that there are dogs in our communities that are not fed regularly, ignored, and ultimately physically and emotionally abused. Kane



Kelly is one of 7 volunteers that founded Bullied Breed Rescue. Kane wondered how she had time on top of her full-time job and family responsibilities to do such important work as running a rescue for homeless dogs. She explained that people make time for what is important. Kane had never met a president before. He wondered if he was supposed to bow but Kelly is super chill and didn't seem to desire that type of attention. She was busy making sure that Tommy was having a good time

visiting. He was busy playing with a toy, playing fetch, and giving out scads of free kisses to everyone. He wondered if everyone's lips would get chapped or if Tommy would get thirsty from all that licking. Kane asked Kelly how the pups come into her rescue. She explained that many come from animal control in the local communities, stray dogs, shelters, and surrendered dogs that were no longer a good match for their owners. Kane learned that many of the dogs in their care learn manners and how to trust humans in their foster homes so they can be successful in living with their forever family. I didn't tell Kelly that I took a bite out of mom's work papers this morning, I guess all dogs sometimes have to work on manners.

Kane learned that Tommy would be trying out a foster home next week. Kane thought his foster parents would be lucky since Tommy is such a friendly, fun loving pup. I took a picture of him so you can see how handsome he is. I asked Kelly how people could donate or help other dogs like Tommy find a home. She said they could contact the rescue at info@bulliedbreedsrescue.org. Besides the pups needing families they often need donations for medical care, materials such as leashes, collars and toys. To make a donation PayPal is an option or by sending a check to P.O Box 225 Nutting Lake MA 01865. The rescue actually runs solely on donations. Kelly and the other volunteers truly put their



heart and soul into this important work.

At the end of our visit, I wished Tommy well and bowed slightly so Kelly would know I respected her being a president then I had a dream that pups like Tommy would not be misunderstood because every dog could use a second chance to live their dream. Thanks for all you do Bullied Bread Rescue, you truly make a difference.

Best, Kane Woof ♦

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Long before I ever ran for office I was a loyal reader of The Valley Patriot. As Lawrence City Council President - and now a State Rep. I find it vital to keeping up with what's going on in my district.

Congratulations on hitting a **GREAT** milestone, your 17TH ANNIVERSARY! Here's hoping for many more!



HAPPY 15TH ANNIVERSARY!

FRANK MORAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

I Remember how they Laughed 17 Years and 209 Editions Ago

I REMEMBER SO WELL ...

I remember when the very first edition of The Valley Patriot was delivered to my office in Lawrence City Hall back in 2004. I had never seen anything like it. It was a breath of fresh air for free speech in the Lawrence area! Tom, you and your team have come a long way since those days, you ought to be proud!

I also remember taking my share of criticism in the pages of this newspaper too, but it was always fair and never personal.

Mostly, I remember when you first unveiled your vision for standards in journalism, how you were laughed at and mocked by the political insiders and the newspaper industry.

**CONGRATULATIONS
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(Then) Lawrence Mayor Mike Sullivan in July of 2005 at the placement of our very first newspaper box on Mt. Vernon St. in Lawrence.

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Lawrence, Haverhill See Reduction in Crime

Eric Spagnoli
VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER

LAWRENCE

While it has long had the reputation as a crime plagued city, Lawrence Police say crime in Lawrence has decreased 32% overall in 2020. This included a fairly sharp decline in all major crime categories except for murder, which rose from four cases in 2019 to five cases in 2020.

This marks another record year for the Lawrence Police Department. Lawrence Police Chief Roy Vasque told the Valley Patriot, adding that crime reduction has been consistent for the past three years.

"The Lawrence Police Department has now seen 3 consecutive years of historic 20-year lows in crime starting with 2018 vs. 2017," Vasque said in an email to the Valley Patriot.

"Just as impressive is our clearance rates in these crime categories, which are all at, or well above the national average."

When asked what the police department has done to achieve crime reduction in the community, Vasque had a range of answers. He noted the impact of placing more officers on the street and the

LAWRENCE CRIME STATS PROVIDED BY CHIEF VASQ

	Yearly Total				Comparison		
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017 vs 2018	2017 vs 2019	2017 vs 2020
Murder	11	5	4	5	-55%	-64%	-55%
Rape	32	29	32	20	-9%	0%	-38%
Robbery	152	70	87	53	-54%	-43%	-65%
Aggravated Assault	393	395	419	292	1%	7%	-26%
Domestic	152	179	195	127	18%	28%	-16%
Non-Domestic	241	216	224	165	-10%	-7%	-32%
Residential Burglary	154	83	68	35	-46%	-56%	-77%
Commercial Burglary	72	46	45	14	-36%	-38%	-81%
Felony Larceny	415	128	67	41	-69%	-84%	-90%
Auto Theft	407	221	164	142	-46%	-60%	-65%
Part 1 Total	1636	977	886	602	-40%	-46%	-63%

diversity amongst those officers.

"The Lawrence Department is now the only Minority Majority police department in the Commonwealth. We feel as though this, along with our strong commitment to working with the community, is a big factor in helping crime reduction."

Vasque also credited a recent implementation of a city-wide camera project for the police department.

"[The camera project] not only helps in deterring crime, but is a big factor in solving all crime quickly...With the help of our camera system, technology advancements, training, and partnership with the community, we are able to get those responsible for crime off the streets before they commit other crimes."

Another area of improvement can be found in the number of domestic crimes, which stands at its lowest since

Overdose Total	2018	2019	2020
	279	283	242

2017. Due to COVID-19 keeping a large number of people at home, it may be surprising to some that domestic crimes have decreased, but Vasque maintained hope that this decrease is due to the good will of the community and the efforts of the department.

"My hope is that domestic violence is truly down for other reasons and not because victims are afraid to reach out for help due to the pandemic and are living with their abusers. We have made an effort through our Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) and social media to try and get the word out that help and resources are still available."

When asked how the pandemic has affected the handling of crimes, Vasque said, "there has been and continues to be a big push to acquire PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for our officers, and we are constantly updating our policies and procedures as the latest state and national guidelines change."

HAVERHILL

Meanwhile, Haverhill has also experienced a reduction in crime, as well as reductions in the numbers of overdoses and overdose deaths. Overall, crime has dropped by 14% in the community.

Categories of crime that have shown a decrease in 2020 include assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

In a recent phone interview with the Valley Patriot, Haverhill Police Chief

Alan DeNaro declared that the decrease in crime has been a pattern for the past decade. Despite a few spikes in some years, including in 2019, Chief DeNaro maintained that crime has been trending down and acknowledged several factors that have led to this pattern.

Similar to Lawrence, Haverhill Police utilizes a camera project to deter crime. However, this project was established 15 years ago. According to DeNaro, other local communities considering similar projects in their cities/towns turn to Haverhill's police department for guidance in setting up theirs.

DeNaro also said that COVID-19 was partially responsible for some of the decline in certain crimes.

"Some of [the decline] can be attributed to COVID. For instance, burglary is down, because people are at home, and criminals are less likely to break into houses when residents are home."

DeNaro says The Haverhill Police Department has not encountered any issues in acquiring PPE for its officers, as it always keeps a minimum of a six-month supply for all their employees.

Additionally, although DeNaro acknowledged the slight decrease in the number of overdose deaths, he warned of the ongoing presence of fentanyl in heroin and other illicit drugs.

"That's the whole issue. All the heroin we are confiscating is almost 100% fentanyl."

When asked what kind of resources the department is offering to citizens suffering from drug addiction, DeNaro pointed to the cooperation of local clinicians.

"Paid clinicians will ride with a community officer. Anytime there is an overdose or an overdose death, they will meet with the family [of the victim] and try to get the victim into a rehab program."

Overall, DeNaro remained optimistic for the future of Haverhill, but acknowledged that the police department and the city have much work to do. Specifically, DeNaro insisted that the city must give the department the resources to hire more officers.

"Over 10 to 15 years, we've seen a steady reduction in crime. I've been a chief for over 22 years, and I see Haverhill in one of its strongest positions ever. I think crime is going to continue to trend downwards."

"I will push the mayor to continue to augment the size of this department...We need more officers to properly police the area. We are hiring an average of less than one officer per year. In my opinion, that's unacceptable. The police department needs the resources."

"There's been challenges financially as we're moving forward, but we will continue to push for five new officers in the budget this year."

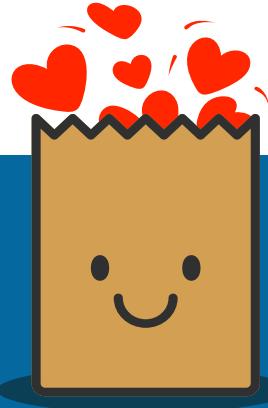
 Eric Spagnoli is a Senior English and Communication student at Saint Anselm College in Goffstown, NH. He is an aspiring journalist with a passion for sports, comedy, and public service. You can email him: espagnoli@Anselm.Edu ♦

Haverhill Crime Stats Provided by Chief DeNaro			
Homicide	2	1	3
Forcible Rape	22	16	14
Robbery	34	17	20
Assault	294	338	300
Burglary	183	204	163
Larceny	721	725	614
Motor Vehicle Theft	107	112	104
Arson	3	8	7
Total	1366	1421	1225
Overdoses	177	159	147
Overdose Deaths	17	15	14

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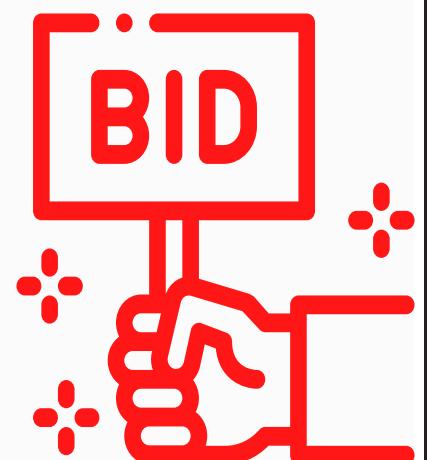
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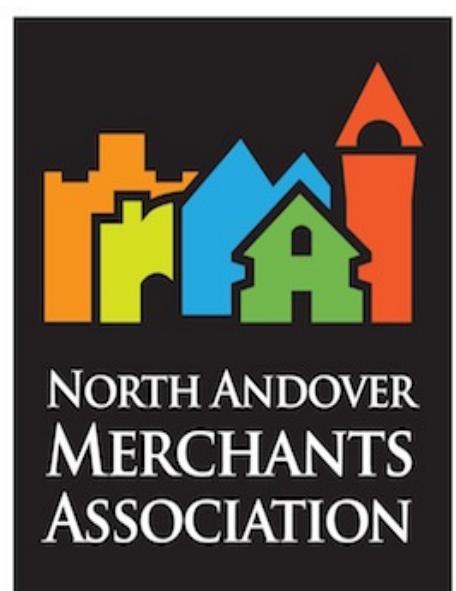


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◊

HERO: FROM PAGE 1

I spent about 2 ½ years in Boston in the schools and protecting the children on bus routes leading to South Boston High School and the Gavin Middle School".

Jack Garvin spent over 33 years with the State Police and retired at the end of 2007, with the rank of Detective Lieutenant. During that time, he had been stationed in Concord for five years, Andover for five years, the Essex County District Attorney's office for nineteen years as a supervisor and five years as the commanding officer of the certification (background investigations) unit. While in the District Attorney's office he was involved in the investigation of over 150 homicides, as well as many other major crimes, including fugitive apprehensions.

When he retired from the State Police after serving three decades, he became a licensed private, investigator working with many former assistant District Attorneys who were now in private practice mainly doing civil investigations as well as some workman's comp cases. He and his wife Susan enjoy travelling, including going to Ireland, England, and Scotland several times, as well as spending time at their place at Salisbury Beach. They have three children, Kate,

Mike, and Julie and five grandchildren.

Author's Note: MOS stands for Military Occupational Specialty. Jack Garvin's were 11B Infantryman or Rifleman, 11H Infantryman, Infantry Direct Fire Crewman, and 11F Infantry, Operations, and Intelligence Specialist.

The Dracut American Legion asks all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans, to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington DC! Veterans of all eras are asked to go the American Legion's Web site www.legion.org, and join the American Legion, preserving our Veteran's Benefits for future generations.

John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a master's in economics from the

University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 24 years. If you know a World War II veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John. Cuddy@yahoo.com. ◊



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**GREAT
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Exercising During The Covid-19 Pandemic

Eric Spagnoli
VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER

With the Covid-19 causing some gym-goers reconsidering their workout spot, staying physically active means getting creative with an exercise routine closer to home. There are lots of safe ways to work out while socially distancing. Coronavirus transmission risk appears to be reduced outdoors, so with the warmer weather on the way, we can start walking outdoors again. Not only is it a way to exercise, but enjoying nature and fresh air can provide a fresh perspective.

We can still go to the gym, most are open again for business (check with your gym for their individual rules regarding safety measures during the current situation). Remember the CDC guidelines; maintaining a six-foot distance from others in public; frequent hand-washing, for at least 20 seconds; and using a cloth face cover over your nose and mouth when around others. The face cover is not a substitute for physical distancing.

Many people are using this time as an opportunity to exercise more, and they are exploring new ways to do it. Like online classes, using fitness apps and joining groups to motivate each other. Which ever you choose remember to bring along hand sanitizer and also some public restrooms may still be closed.

The health benefits of physical activity and regular exercise are hard to ignore. Exercising regularly can boost your energy levels, boost your muscle strength (which boost your endurance levels), help you control your weight by burning calories, improve your emotional mood and promote better sleep habits (a huge one for me). You will feel better about yourself, get around much better and increase your chances of living a longer healthier life. It doesn't take much, as a general goal; try to aim for at least thirty to sixty minutes of physical activity every

day.

Don't like the gym or can't get to a gym? There are simple techniques to improve your daily physical activities that do not require a gym membership. Try taking the stairs instead of an elevator, park your car the furthest spot away from your destination and walk a little extra. Go for a walk on your lunch hour or take the kids to the park instead of watching TV. Just try to be more active throughout your day, its these little changes that will add up before you know it and you'll see improvements.

When I started my weight loss journey back in February of 2015, I just stuck with my food plan filling my body with the proper nutrition (which I refer to now as fuel) and as the weight came off I found myself with more energy then I knew what to do with, in the past I stayed away from most physical activity and was not a fan of going to the gym.

I started out by just going for a walk and at first I would walk about a half a mile and turn around and come back, now I enjoy it so much I walk three to five miles daily. Try to keep it fun and you'll stick to it longer. Find a physical activity that you enjoy and also having a friend or family member joining you will help motivate you both to continue. It could be something as simple as taking a daily walk or hiking, to doing a gym activity like a spin class or a zumba dance class.

Remember to always check with your doctor before starting any new exercise program if you have any concerns or chronic health problems such as diabetes, heart disease, arthritis or if you haven't exercised for a long time.

Rick Bellanti is a wellness columnist and is on a journey himself to lose 240lbs, and has lost 140lbs since the start of 2015. If you have any questions or comments, please post them to his Getting Healthy with Rick Bellanti Facebook page and once a month he will address a few of the topics here.

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Not All Memory Loss is the Same

By Tracy Valletti,

Executive Director at Methuen Village
Remember that time a woman in the post office ran over to you, gave you a big hug and asked about your children? You had no idea who she was, yet it was pretty clear that she knew you.

OK, maybe you don't remember, but don't jump to conclusions. Not all memory loss is a symptom of Alzheimer's disease. Memory problems and other symptoms of cognitive decline can range from the natural forgetfulness of normal aging to full blown dementia and be caused by a number of afflictions, not limited to Alzheimer's disease, some treatable and some not.

Normal Aging

As healthy people age, they may miss an appointment here or there or forget someone's name or face, but the memory lapse will not be significant enough to affect safety or normal activities. They may have some word-finding difficulty or the occasional misplaced item, but given enough time they will eventually be able to figure it out.

Mild Cognitive Impairment

Someone with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) may have trouble with familiar tasks, but not significant enough to affect their ability to eat, get dressed, or maintain proper hygiene. They can find it difficult to follow conversations, books or movies and be challenged by making decisions and solving problems. Loved ones may also notice mood swings, poor judgment, or withdrawal from social activities. Approximately 20% of people with MCI will return to normal cognitive

function within a few years, though some will remain at this stage and others will develop Alzheimer's disease or other dementia.

Is it Dementia?

Vitamin and hormone deficiencies, depression, medication side-effects, infections and brain tumors can cause symptoms similar to dementia. If you are experiencing symptoms that you find troubling or that impact your daily life, see a doctor right away so that a treatable condition is handled correctly. If symptoms indicate MCI, Alzheimer's or other dementia-causing disease, early diagnosis will mean early access to support, treatments and medication.

What Can We Do?

Scientists are actively studying MCI, especially since we know that those with Alzheimer's disease or similar diseases may not show symptoms for many years. Greater Boston has two Alzheimer's Research Centers, Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Center, with which Methuen Village is affiliated, and one at Harvard Medical School. Learn more about research participation and their current studies on their websites.

If you or a loved one are experiencing the symptoms of MCI or dementia and would like to connect with other families and caregivers, our virtual Caregiver Support Group meets monthly via Zoom. For more information, please contact Director of Compass Programming Kristina Cruz at kcruz@methuenvillage.com or call 978-685-2220. You can also find resources about MCI at www.seniorlivingresidences.com/MCI. ♦

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Four M Realty Trust & Michael G Bausemer Tr & Mary Jane Bausemer Tr, Mark A Bausemer, 446,000, 139 Shawsheen Rd
Coleen C Mahoney & Maureen E Mahoney & Mark J Mahoney Jr, Amit Kishan Venkataramian & Abinaya Shine, 325,000, 700L Brookside Dr Unit 700L
Richard Trotta & Leslie Howell Trotta, Richard Trotta, 300,000, 2 Agawam Ln Michael W & Nancy Hood, Abdelhamid Kaddouri & Hala Chebab, 490,000, 7 Walker Ave
Perla & Scott Redfern, Jason & Nicole Kalil, 1,173,000, 7 Heritage Ln
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Margaret M Fenton Living Trust & F Michael Fenton Tr & Margaret M Fenton Tr, E Paul & Kathleen A Tinsely, 1,100,000, 11 Murfield Cir Unit 2-3
Wei Qi, Michael & Lauren Leonard, 960,000, 19 Carter Ln
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Dimitrios G & Cori Saragas, Paul James Nazzaro Sr & Giulia Mary Nazzaro, 2,882,500, 9 Prides Cir
Edward R & Holly L Jenkins, Arthur & Kim Drougas, 1,400,000, 5 Ruggiero Wy
Paul D Vandermeer & Sarah J King, BGRS Relocation Inc, 895,000, 15 Nutmeg Ln
BGRS Relocation Inc, Ira & Paige Divoll, 895,000, 15 Nutmeg Ln

LAWRENCE

Wobich Properties LLC, 421 Merrimack Street LLC, 3,400,000, 421 Merrimack St
Chloe LLC, Oval Re Assets Corp, 315,000, 41-43 Brookfield St
Kristin M & Bassirou Wane, Brooke Litwinsky, 317,000, 10 Beaconsfield St
191 Union LLC, 191 South Union LLC, 1,000,000, 177-193 South Union St

Eric J Soucey & Arthur C Soucey & Jay J Soucey, Jose R Sanchez Amparo & Gloria Marilandy Colon De Perez, 503,000, 221 Bailey St
Justin Brown, Yancarlo Guzman Gonzalez, 350,000, 113 Prospect St Unit 2
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Eugenia Perez/Eugenia Hernandez, Joyce Luyiga Kabuye & Ronald K Kabuye, 330,000, 53 Knox St
Ramon Alberto, Miguel A Fernandez, 250,000, 76 Exeter St
Chloe LLC, Amdery Mejia Ferreira & Amaury Mejia Ferreira, 400,000, 49 Dracut St
Clermont J Martineau Est & Florent J Martineau & Diane Martineau, Oscar D Sian Matul, 540,000, 21-23 Gilbert St
Gabriel Lopez, Carlos Rodriguez, 442,900, 355-357 Water St
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Wynn Management & Co LLC, 611 Common Street St LLC, 1,200,000, 611 Common St
541 Haverhill Street LLC, Ujunwa Okwkaogu, 765,000, 541 Haverhill St
Jose Luis Vargas, Gerson Israel Zorrilla & Carolangel Zorrilla, 420,000, 33 Kendrick St
Domby A Toribio-Garcia & Manuel Soto-Pena & Estela Toribio, Glendaly B Pena-Soto, 370,000, 482 Mount Vernon St
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Marquez LLC, Pimar Properties I LLC, 1,300,000, 103-107 Union St
5-9 Mill Street LLC, 276 Essex St LLC, 400,000, 276-280 Essex St
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Belkis X Fermin, Wilmer Ventura, 181,000, 20 Knox St Unit 30
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 15 McGrath LLC, McGrath Business Park LLC, 3,100,000, 15 McGrath Rd
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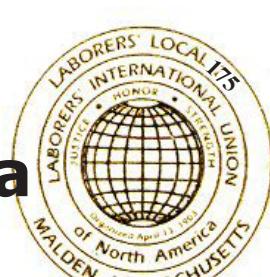
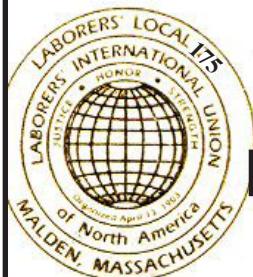


It's hard to believe that it was 17 years ago when The Valley Patriot first hit the streets. Looking back at all the corruption you have exposed, and the way you have educated the public about our government, I know the Merrimack Valley is better off for your efforts! Congratulations to Tom Duggan and everyone at The Valley Patriot for not only exercising, but fighting for the 1st Amendment to the United States Constitution!

~Mike Gagliardi~

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TV TALK with BILL CUSHING



‘City On A Hill’

Bill Cushing

VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

Showtime's 'City ON A Hill' is a gritty crime drama set against the backdrop of 1990's Boston and stars Kevin Bacon as wayward FBI Agent Jackie Rohr. Jackie appears to be well known throughout all levels of the law enforcement community. Let's just say his reputation precedes him. He's a corrupt, adulterous, drug using agent who is still considered somewhat of a legend in Boston for playing a major role in taking down an organized crime family ten years earlier.

Jackie, with his slicked back hair and sleazy mustache, is someone who lives as much in the world of the wise guys as he does in the world of law enforcement. Jackie feels like he runs the city, and in a way he does. But the winds of change are blowing. Boston's new assistant DA is Brooklyn-born Decourcy Ward (Aldis Hodge), and he's a key player on a committee tasked with making crooked cops pay.

It doesn't take long for Decourcy to understand that he'll need allies within law enforcement if he's going to make any progress. You would think that Jackie would be the least likely candidate to be that ally. But Jackie made his name a decade earlier by busting a mafia network, and he casts a long shadow over lowlives and law enforcement alike. He knows his way around bad guys, because quite frankly, he is one himself. Rohr and Decourcy are soon forced to work together to solve a string of robberies, including one that has left a crew of an armored truck missing and presumed dead.

The show also presents the story from the side of the criminals. Frankie Ryan (Jonathan Tucker) and his untrustworthy brother Jimmy (Mark O'Brien) were the part of the team to commit the armored truck heist. Frankie is the brains of the operation and Jimmy is the liability. We get to see the crime from their side and how it effects their lives and the lives of

their families.

Bacon, Hodges, and Tucker are terrific as the 3 male leads on the show. But while it may seem that the show is structured as a familiar, male-dominated cop show, that can be misleading. 'City on a Hill' has some very strong female characters that are very prominent people in the lives of the male characters. We see very strong scenes from some top-notch actresses, including, Jill Hennessy as Jackie's beleaguered wife, Lauren E. Banks as Decourcy's partner, Sarah Shahi as a tough investigator assigned to help out on Decourcy's case, and Amanda Franklin as Frankie's wife Cathy.

The city of Boston clearly plays a major role in the production and the show captures that setting remarkably well, filming in and around the city. Boston's own Matt Damon and Ben Affleck serve as producers on the show and help give the show its authentic Boston feel.

Along with Affleck and Damon, 'City On A Hill' has an equally impressive lineup behind the scenes. Tom Fontana, the creative force behind such shows as St. Elsewhere, Homicide, and Oz, serves as the showrunner. With people like this behind it we should expect excellence from 'City On A Hill' and season 1 was a good start.

Season 2 premieres March 28 on Showtime. In the meantime you can catch up on Season 1 by watching it on Showtime On Demand.

If you have any questions about TV you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column.



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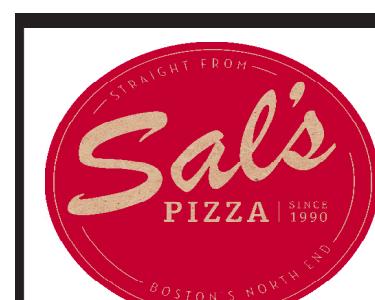
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Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Greetings and God bless all of you in the Mighty Name of Jesus Christ! I don't know about you, but for me, it has been an exciting adventure of learning concerning Spiritual Matters these last 4 months. We looked at subjects that are hardly ever mentioned in the Christian Church today. But yet there they are in The Bible for all to see and read.

A person can't go beyond what they know and can't know more than what they have been taught. This is why we took the time to look at what the Bible says, line by line, and word by word concerning Spiritual Matters, specifically on Speaking in Tongues and Speaking in Tongues with Interpretation and Prophecy. If you haven't read my last 4 columns may I encourage you to do so as soon as you can.

In this column I would like to "land the plane" as preachers like to say when ending their sermon series on a subject. Once again, we will do this by looking at what "The Bible" says is "The Best Way" God wants these Spiritual Gifts operated in the New Testament Church. God makes it very clear who is the Head is of the Church, it's not you or me, or any religious denomination, it is Jesus Christ himself as it says in Colossians 1:18, "And He [Jesus Christ] is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence." NKJV.

After listing the Gifts and Manifestations of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12, we come to verse 31 of the chapter and read, "But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way." NKJV. A more excellent way than what? What is better than earnestly desiring the best gifts? Keep reading into the next chapter, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing." NKJV.

There are several points in these verses that I want to highlight for you, so let's begin with the word LOVE. This is not brotherly love or a sexual kind of love, but God's kind of Love, [Agape, Love] The Love of God! How did we get this God kind of

love? Romans 5:5 tells us, "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." NKJV. When we made Jesus the Lord of our life, the Holy Spirit entered our hearts and poured The Love of God into it!

So, the more excellent way of operating the gifts of The Holy Spirit is with this "Love," The Love of God. "The Love of God" should be our number one motivating factor when operating Spiritual Gifts. Secondly, is to earnestly desire!

Next, I would like to point out to you that these verses say that there is absolutely nothing wrong or evil with Speaking in Tongues or Prophecy, they are perfect! On the other hand, these verses do say that when I operate them without The Love of God as my motivation, I become just noise, I become nothing, and I am not profitable. It's the person who has the problem and not the Gifts! Again, let me be clear, you cannot use these verses for an excuse for not Speaking in Tongues or to Prophecy! Again, these verses are referring to "How" these Spiritual Matters are to be manifested.

Remember God's desire for the Church is found in 1 Corinthians 14:3, "But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men." NKJV. God wants His people edified, exhorted and comforted! The best way we can carry out God's will is to do it with The Love of God as our motivation! Any other purpose or reason for operating these Spiritual Matters or gifts no matter how well intentioned you or I might be, it is simply selfishness! We must not make ourselves the center of attention! The Bible says in Romans 12:9, "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good." NKJV. Hypocrisy is the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behavior does not conform. God doesn't take kindly to those who fake their way through the Church being someone or something they are not! God makes this point better than anyone in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." NKJV.

Next, The Holy Spirit ends 1 Corinthians 13 with this declaration, 13, "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." NKJV. Then He

BENEATH THE SURFACE

Losing Touch with Reality

Paul Murano
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The first amendment of the U.S. Constitution prohibits the federal government from establishing a particular religious denomination as the state religion. Eventually, this notion became known as separation of church and state.

Despite the fact that "separation" is not a Constitutional concept, the founding fathers believed religious denominations should remain distinct from the state, and the state should never interfere with their practice.

The big fallacy of our age is that agnosticism, which in practice is lived out as atheism, is the neutral world view, and must be the default mode of public policy in free countries. This fallacy holds that God is something added onto reality, rather than Reality itself. Nothing can be further from the truth.

Never did the founders ever imagine that such a separation of church and state could be interpreted as a separation of God and state. The reason is simple. Most of them understood, at least intuitively, that God is Reality, with a capital R. The idea of separating public policy from God would have been inexplicable to the founders, since it means separating the mind from Reality.

Such a surrender of logic and reason, as has been seen in our post-Christian culture, has resulted in utter confusion as to who and what we are in the world. Actually, insanity is now the norm with regard to sex, gender, and human dignity.

Today's culture of confusion is a culture of arrogance. It shows how far modern man has turned to himself as the measure of all things. Rather than looking externally for definition and the moral compass that gives meaning, direction, and purpose to all things, modern post-Christian man creates his own meaning, defines his own purpose, and makes his own code of morality.

The result is insanity. Rather than submitting to Reality, people are defining themselves as their disordered desires dictate. So, if a woman identifies as a man, she's a man. If a boy says he's a girl, his parents are apt to declare he's now a girl. If a pregnant woman wants her baby, she declares it a baby. If she doesn't, the baby is a merely a product of conception or a mass of cells. There is little understanding of the marital meaning of the body, without which none of us would exist.

Further, Reality is Trinitarian – as Lover, Beloved, and Love. It is the exemplar of the family, which is father, mother, and child – the foundation of society and every civilization. The more we reflect triadic relational love, the more real we are.

Separating God from society leads to great confusion, self-abuse, and a disdain for truth. It leads directly to a culture of death that cannot be sustained for too much longer. The Communist Chinese know this. The Islamists know this. And most pertinently, the devil knows this.

Like a painting exists only at the pleasure of the artist, and receives fully its meaning from him, so too do we derive our reality from God. Therefore, while separating civil governance from church affairs is a Constitutional mandate, separating God from state is, literally, insanity.



Paul is producer and host of *Beneath the Surface* video and radio podcasts, teaches philosophy & theology, is a staff writer/producer for St. Michael's Media. He's also a singer-songwriter-musician. See his website at PaulMurano.com and E-mail him at PJDM@aol.com.

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begins 1 Corinthians 14:1 with, "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy." NKJV. We are to pursue Love first! We covered what kind of love this is referring to. Now I want to handle the who behind the Love! According to 1 John 4:16, "And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him." NKJV. The "what" is the Love of God and the "who" behind the love is God himself for God is Love! Another words, pursue God who is Love first, then move in the operation of Spiritual

Gifts! The word "pursue," means to follow or run after. We are admonished to run after Love, who is God the Giver of the gifts first, then earnestly desire to operate the gifts!

In conclusion, Romans 14:19 tells us, "Therefore let us pursue [or run after] the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another." NKJV. Peace and Edification, are an excellent way to land a column on Spiritual Matters!

Love to all of you,
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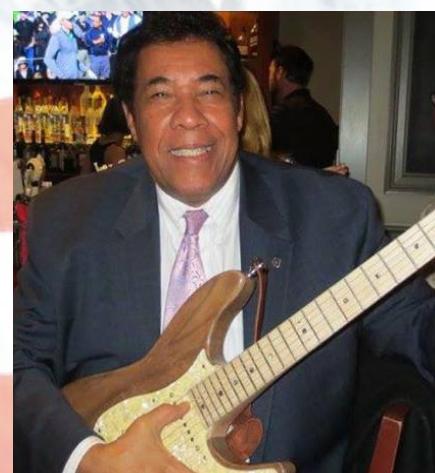
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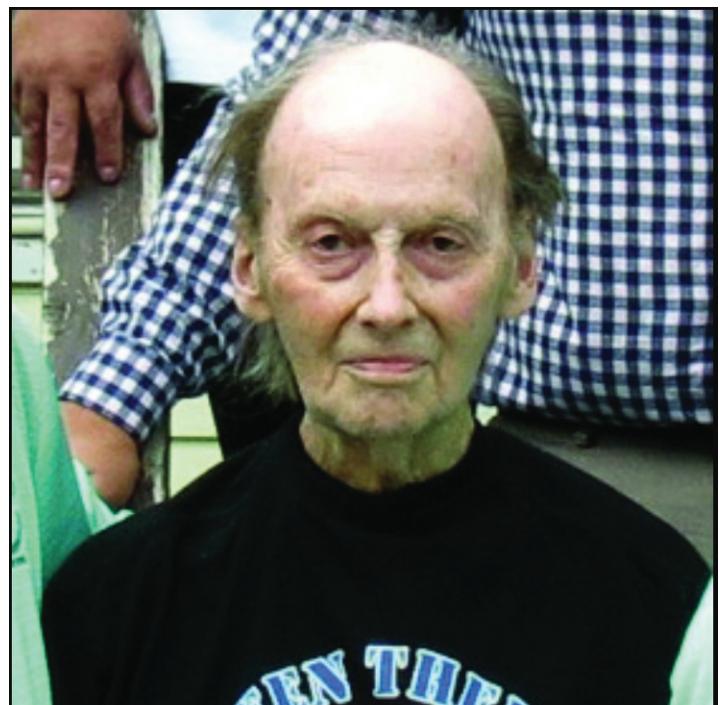


Two New Methuen Firefighters Graduate from Fire Academy



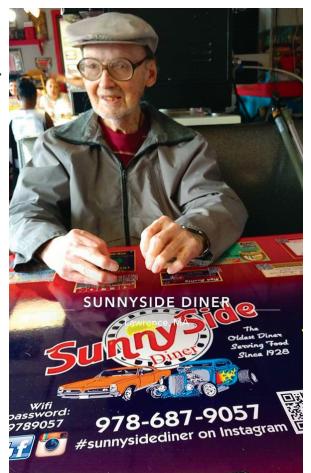
State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) Director David C. Evans announced the graduation of the three classes that completed the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's fifty-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program. The ceremony took place at the Department of Fire Services in Stow, MA. Class #287 featured 18 Graduates from 10 Fire Departments including Methuen Firefighters Jared LeBlanc (pictured first) and Michael Bodenrader. In response to the pandemic, the 10-week curriculum was reorganized to take advantage of online learning technology while ensuring plenty of practical skill experience on-campus with instructors. LeBlanc and Bodenrader have met the national standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001 and are certified to the level of Firefighter I and II, and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operational Level by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. Congratulations to our graduates. "We are very proud of Firefighters LeBlanc and Bodenrader," Methuen Fire Chief Tim Sheehy said. "This past year's work and curriculum at the Academy were especially challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our graduates showed great dedication and focus to accomplish their goals." ♦

Remembering WWII Veteran - Hero of Normandy, SGT Herman Bazin



Sgt. Herman Bazin was 95-year-old WWII Veteran born and raised in the city of Lawrence MA. Born and raised in Lawrence, Mr. Bazin graduated from high school in June of 1943 and was drafted into the Army shortly after that in July of 1943. Bazin and his fellow draftees were sent to the Fort Devens staging area for ten days. He served from 1943-1945 in the Battle of the Bulge assisting in the HHC 7th Tank destroyer group and held the rank of T5. He served in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, & Central Europe. He also received a good conduct, EAMEDC, & WWII Victory medal.

His favorite restaurant was SunnySide Diner in Methuen. He always ordered two pancakes - which he called flapjacks - and two sausage links with a small coffee. He could never get the name right and called it "The Sunny One" but they knew at SunnySide Diner how much he loved it there and looked forward to him coming for breakfast. The crew at SunnySide never charged him for his meals as a thank you for his service to our country. Whoever got to meet him knew he was a Hero and was very kind and humble.



He recently celebrated his 95th birthday with LPD, LFD, Lawrence Veterans office, IVCS, NEVLH, his homecare nurse Luz, and a bunch of Veterans and families in Drive by birthday parade. In 2016, local veterans' groups and volunteers found out that Herman was about to lose his house to the bank, so they raised enough money to pay off his home on Brookfield Street in Lawrence. He was honored on the front pages of the Valley Patriot in February of 2017 as a Hero in Our Midst and his story will be published in Volume II of "Heroes in Our Midst - From the Pages of The Valley Patriot." ♦

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